(b) whether the main causes have been analysed; and

(c) whether any remedial measures have been taken to revive these sick mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of cotton textile units that have fallen sick and have closed down since the introduction of the June, 1985 Textile Policy is 53.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Coco Island as American Base

*26. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during his recent visit to the United States Mr. U. Ne Win, Chairman of the ruling Burmese Socialist Programme Party has offered the little Coco Island to the United States for having the latter's marine corps base there; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to this offer which poses a serious threat to our country's security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of speculative and unconfirmed press reports to this effect.

(b) Government are always alert to any developments having a bearing on India's security.

Illegal occupation of Indian Territory by Bangladesh

*27. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Government has asked the Central Government to take immediate steps at appropriate level for the recovery of an eight kilometre strip of land in Mankachar area in Dhubri District presently under illegal occupation of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what has been the Central Government's response thereto and what action has been initiated in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has seen newspaper reports to this effect, Baraibari, an area which measures about 191.44 across in Mankachar in the Dhubri District of Assam, is at present in the adverse possession of Bangladesh. Under the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 this area will become part of India after the Agreement is ratified.

News-item Captioned "Counter-Trade deal with Iran in Dumps"

*28. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Counter-trade deal with Iran in dumps" which appeared in the Times of India of the 30th June, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the causes responsible for such a situation;

(c) how far this will affect India's trade and foreign exchange position; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a divergence in the interpretation of the agreement

reached during the 4th session of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission held in New Delhi in February, 1987 by which the Iranian side agreed to effect imports from India of items of a value equivalent to 50 per cent of the oil contracted during the period of the oil contract.

(c) This is not expected to have any adverse effect on India's trade and foreign exchange position.

(d) Exports are being promoted independently of the oil contract.

Action taken against the Management of Gopala Towers and Siddharth Hotel

*29. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what legal action has been taken against the management of the Gopala Towers and Siddharth Hotel for lapses in the construction of these buildings resulting in loss of life and property on account of fire incidents;

(b) the stage at which these two cases are at present pending in the courts and the reasons for the delay in pursuing these cases vigorously; and

(c) whether as a consequence of outbreak of fire in these buildings, any improvements have been made in the Delhi Fire Service to deal with such situations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) In the case of fire at Gopala Tower, a case under section 336/304-A/201 IPC was registered on the 6th June, 1983 against the proprietor and 4 others. The charge-sheet was submitted to the Court on the 26th September, 1983 and is pending trial.

In respect of fire at Siddhartha Inter-Continental Hotel, a case under sections 304-A/337/338 IPC was registered. A charge-sheet was filed in the Court on the 2nd March, 1987 against the Lobby Manager, Inspector (Security) and the Siddhartha Inter-Continental Hotel Limited. The case is pending trial.

A grant of Rs. 11.83 crores has been sanctioned for the Delhi Fire Service for opening 5 more fire stations and for acquiring modern equipments. The Delhi Fire Service has procured a number of Sophisticated fire equipment especially meant for fire-fighting in high-rise buildings.

Steps to protect the Tamilians living in Sri Lanka

*30. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken in the recent past by the Government of India to protect the lives of Tamilians in Sri Lanka;

(b) what steps have been taken to get the economic blockade of Jaffna lifted by the Sri Lankan Government; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to stop Sri Lankan military offensive against Tamilians, if so, what are the details hereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has been continuing its exchanges with the Sri Lanka Government and has conveyed its point of view concerning the effects and implications of steps taken by that Government against Tamils. Presently the military offensive against Tamils has slackened and the economic blockade of Jaffna has been lifted.

Modernisation of Textile Industry

*31. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have for-